THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has approved a new policy for greenfield airport which allows for setting up of a new airport within 150 km of an existing airport on a case to case basis.

The new policy would streamline the process for setting up of new airports. Its salient features are:

(i) Terms and conditions of all the concerned agencies like DGCA, Security, Defence etc. would be prescribed up-front.

(ii) DGCA can clear a proposal if it meets all the prescribed terms and conditions.

(iii) If the proposal is to set up a new airport within an aerial distance of 150 kms from an existing airport, it would be considered by a Steering Committee of the Ministry of Civil Aviation on whose advise, the Ministry can clear it.

(iv) In case the proposal seeks any exemption from any of the prescribed conditions, it would require approval of the Union Cabinet.

(v) All reserved activities to be performed at the airport by central agencies like immigration, customs etc. would be on cost recovery basis.

Negligence of officials at Hyderabad Airport

3721. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether unauthorized chemical substances are allowed to be carried through aircrafts;

(b) if not, how such a chemical was loaded at the Kingfisher aircraft on 4th April, 2008 and the plane had to land in emergency at Hyderabad;

(c) the officials responsible for such a negligence on their part of duty and what action has been taken/is being taken against them; and

(d) how such an irresponsibility would be addressed to amongst the concerned employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) On 3rd April, 2008, no sooner Kingfisher Flight IT-801 took off from the New Hyderabad International Airport (HIA) for Delhi, the pilot detected smoke coming out of the cargo hold of the aircraft. The aircraft made an emergency landing at the HIA.

(c) and (d) The matter is under investigation by BCAS. Further action will be taken after the receipt of the Inquiry Report.

Issue of fake flight test certificates by Carver Academy

3722. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 91 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th March, 2008 and state what action Government has taken against the Carver Academy in Baramati, Maharashtra which has been issuing fake flight test certificates to aspiring pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): As earlier stated in reply to parts (c), (d) and (e) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question 91 answered on 04.03.2008, the licence of the academy was suspended pending investigation. After investigation it emerged that fake certificates were issued by Capt. Ashim Taxali, Chief Flight Instructor (CFI) of the academy. The CFI status of Capt. Taxali was withdrawn by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). DGCA has also been advised to ensure a strict monitoring system in the academy.

Construction/development of airports

3723. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received requests from the State Government regarding construction and expansion of airports in their respective States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Requests received for greenfield airports from various State Governments/ Union Territories are—Tamil Nadu (Sriperembudur), Maharashtra (Chakan near Pune and Sindhudurg), Sikkim (Pakyong), Nagaland (Cheitu), Karnataka (Hassan, Shimoga, Bijapur and Gulbarga), Puducherry (Karaikal), Kerala (Kannur), Arunachal Pradesh (Itanagar and Tawang), Andhra Pradesh (Vizag), Gujarat (Bharuch), Goa (Mopa) and Uttar Pradesh (Jewar near Noida).

Expansion of airports have been planned/initiated for the following airports: Cuddapah, Rajahmundry, Vijayawada and Warangal in Andhra Pradesh; Nagpur in Maharashtra; Mehsana in Gujarat; Bhopal and Indore in Madhya Pradesh; Raipur in Chhattisgarh; Shimla and Kullu in Himachal Pradesh; and Mysore in Karnataka.

Construction/expansion of airports is a continuous process taking into account the commercial viability, traffic potential/demands, commitment of airlines to operate through the specific airports etc.

MoU between AAI and Transparency International

3724. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed an MoU with Transparency International India to ensure that Rs. 2000 crore it will spending this fiscal and an additional Rs. 12000 crore in the Eleventh Plan period for building new infrastructure is well spent;

(b) whether the AAI officials will have to work as a team and effectively utilize the Integrity Pact (IP) tool to ensure clean procurement and meet the challenges ahead without compromising or diluting any procedures or guidelines issued by CVC or Government;

(c) if so, what are other main features of the MoU; and

(d) to what extent they are being implemented?